

IOANNIS DIMITRIOU COHILIS

JULY 1, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered
to be printed

Mr. WALTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2395]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2395) for the relief of Ioannis Dimitriou Cohilis, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Ioannis Dimitriou Cohilis. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiary of the bill is a 57-year-old native and citizen of Greece who claims to have last entered the United States as a smuggled alien on July 20, 1926. He was arrested in 1928 and ordered deported in 1929. His whereabouts were unknown to the Immigration Service for some 20 years. He now owns a restaurant in Bainbridge, Ga., and a number of substantial residents of that area speak highly of him.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated May 16, 1952, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

MAY 16, 1952.

HON. PAT McCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 2395) for the relief of Ioannis Dimi-

triou (John) Cohilis, an alien. The bill would grant the alien permanent residence in the United States.

A memorandum prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service setting forth the facts in the case is attached.

The record in this case discloses that the alien's long residence in this country was the result of his absconding in 1929 during the pendency of deportation proceedings which had been instituted against him. There are no other factors tending to justify granting him a preference through the enactment of special legislation.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the bill.

Sincerely,

A. DEVITT VANECH,
Deputy Attorney General.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
SERVICE FILES RE IOANNIS DIMITRIOU COHILIS, BENEFICIARY OF S. 2395

The alien, Ioannis Dimitriou (John) Cohilis, is a native and citizen of Greece, who was born on June 15, 1894. He claims to have last entered the United States on July 20, 1926, as a smuggled alien, at or near Miami, Fla. He was apprehended under a warrant of arrest issued on November 1, 1928, in deportation proceedings and on January 22, 1929, he was ordered deported from the United States. He thereafter absconded and could not be located for deportation. His whereabouts did not become known to the Immigration and Naturalization Service until 1948, although inquiry as to the circumstances in his case was made by an attorney in 1945 who was then advised that he should surrender the alien to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

On February 14, 1949, the deportation hearing was reopened and the alien's application for suspension of deportation pursuant to section 19 (c) (2) of the Immigration Act of 1917, as amended, was denied. On September 21, 1951, on appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals, the order and warrant of deportation dated June 4, 1951, was withdrawn and the alien was granted the privilege of voluntary departure within 90 days. On January 10, 1952, he was granted an additional period of 60 days within which to effect his departure from the United States but he failed to avail himself of such administrative relief.

The Board in affirming the decision denying the alien's application for suspension of deportation pointed out that after the forfeiture of his bond in 1929 he has remained a fugitive for approximately 20 years, and that his residence was accumulated while a warrant for his deportation was outstanding against him.

The alien has no near relatives residing in the United States and has no one dependent upon him for support in this country. His wife and five children, whom he has not seen since his entry into the United States, reside in Greece. He is residing in Bainbridge, Ga., where he is a partner in a restaurant business.

Mr. Cohilis is chargeable to the quota of Greece which is oversubscribed and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable.

Senator Walter F. George, the author of the bill, has submitted a number of letters and recommendations in connection with the bill, among which are the following:

STATE OF GEORGIA,
Atlanta, January 4, 1952.

Senator WALTER F. GEORGE,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR: Immigration authorities have issued a voluntary departure order, effective date January 16, for one John Cohilis, partner in the Eagle Cafe 212 South Broad Street, Bainbridge, Ga.

The above alien is known to immigration authorities as Ioannis Cohilis and came to this country in 1926. About 3 years ago John Cohilis bought half interest in the Eagle Cafe which is next door to my place of business. I have observed this man's conduct and I have checked his character and find that he has made a good citizen. He is loyal and patriotic to the United States and has never been in any trouble to my knowledge. He gives freely to charity and pays his obligations.

I think it is a shame for this man to be sent out of the country when we have so many rascals in our midst. You would please most of the people in Bainbridge if you could see fit to introduce a bill in the Senate to make John a legal resident of this country or stay his departure order long enough for his home folks to talk to immigration officials.

Any consideration you can give this man will be personally appreciated by me.
With every good wish for a happy and prosperous New Year, I am
Sincerely,

MARVIN GRIFFIN.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT,
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA,
Bainbridge, Ga., January 9, 1952.

Hon. WALTER F. GEORGE,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR: John Cohilis, a resident of Bainbridge for some 4 or 5 years, and who came to this country some 25 years ago illegally, is about to be deported.

John is the owner and operator of the Eagle Cafe here in Bainbridge, a very respectable, well-run cafe with a large patronage. My personal knowledge and information is that John is very civic-minded, aids in all the local and civic enterprises, is highly regarded and well thought of.

Someone has just told me, one of the boys, I believe, that you have already or will introduce legislation in aid of his situation. I wish to add my recommendation to such legislation.

I do not appreciate the fact that he entered illegally, but it seems to me that, after all, it is not so much how you enter as what your conduct and attitude are after you enter, and, according to this standard, John has been and would make a fine American citizen.

With assurances of very high personal regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A. B. CONGER.

CONGER & CONGER,
Bainbridge, Ga., January 10, 1952.

Hon. WALTER F. GEORGE,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR GEORGE: We are delighted to learn that you have introduced a special bill to prevent deportation of John Cohilis who lives in this city. Mr. Cohilis has lived in Bainbridge for approximately 4 years and is now the proprietor of the Eagle Cafe, one of the best, if not the best, restaurants in town. Ever since he has lived in Bainbridge, he has been a model citizen and a good American in spirit if not in fact. He is not only willing but eager to help in civic activities, bond drives, etc., and, in our opinion, Bainbridge, Decatur County, the State of Georgia, and the United States will lose an excellent potential citizen if he is not allowed to remain.

We greatly appreciate what you are attempting to do for him in this connection, and if there is anything we can do to help, please let us know.

Sincerely,

LEONARD H. CONGER.

DECATUR COUNTY, GA.,
COMMISSIONERS OF ROADS AND REVENUES,
Bainbridge, Ga., January 9, 1952.

Senator WALTER F. GEORGE,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR GEORGE: John Cohilis, a Greek in business in Bainbridge, Ga., has obtained an order of deportation from Immigration and Naturalization Service, Jacksonville, Fla., file A5395740, and I understand through "Cheney" Griffin and some other friends of John Cohilis here that either you or Congressman Cox have or will immediately introduce a special bill in Congress to prevent this deportation. I understand the order from the Immigration and Naturalization Service requires John Cohilis to leave the United States on or before January 16, next, and that some friend of his has assisted him in making an application to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for an extension of time, but if the same is not granted, that this extension will be brought about when this special act is introduced. However, John Cohilis is not certain about this matter, and some of his friends here have requested that I write you to clear up this point.

John Cohilis has made a very good citizen here in Bainbridge, and we are very anxious for him to be able to stay here. Therefore, we will appreciate any and

everything you may be able to do in his behalf, and will thank you for an immediate reply, especially as to whether the introduction of the act will postpone the order requiring him to leave the United States on or before January 16, next.

Thanking you for an immediate reply, and with very best regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

W. H. MILLER.

THE WARD-STILSON CO.,
BAINBRIDGE, GA., January 9, 1952.

Senator WALTER GEORGE,
Second District, United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR GEORGE: I'd like to add my personal plea as well as the plea from our organization for you to do everything possible to help keep John Cohilis in this country.

John is a very loyal citizen and we want him to stay in Bainbridge and I know that I speak for a multitude of people when I say that it would be quite a blow to all of us to see our very, very good friend, John, have to leave.

We will be very grateful to you for your effort.

Sincerely yours,

H. L. EMLET,
President, Junior Chamber of Commerce.

JANUARY 16, 1952.

Mr. V. I. CHEBITHES,
Executive Secretary, Order of Ahepa, National Headquarters,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I am glad to be able to recommend John Cohilis as a forthright and upstanding citizen of Bainbridge, Ga.

His loyalty to his country and to his community is beyond reproach. I urge that you use your good office to prevail upon the State Department to allow him to remain in the United States, and be given the opportunity to become an American citizen.

Sincerely yours,

A. G. NIKAS,
President, Greek Orthodox Church, Atlanta, Ga.

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,
THE ANNUNCIATION,
Atlanta, Ga., January 16, 1952.

Mr. V. I. CHEBITHES,
Executive Secretary, Order of Ahepa, National Headquarters,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. CHEBITHES: It is with sincere pleasure that I write in reference to Mr. John Cohilis of Bainbridge, Ga.

I've known Mr. Cohilis for many years. He has always been happy to support the church or any other religious or charitable activity. I believe he has always been an asset to this country of ours, fitting into the pattern of life in Bainbridge and leading a life that reflects credit upon him.

I firmly believe that if Mr. Cohilis is allowed to remain in this country and become a citizen, he will continue being a good American and will do his utmost to uphold and to contribute to the American way of life.

Very respectfully,

PANOS CONSTANTINIDES, D. D.

Senator Richard B. Russell has introduced a bill, S. 2419, for the relief of the same alien. Inasmuch as the committee is reporting S. 2395 favorably, the bill, S. 2419, will be indefinitely postponed.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 2395) should be enacted.